

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for picking up and handling filled, sealed rectangular pouches which have two longitudinal sides and a bottom side with a bottom fold and where the pouches are positioned standing on one of the longitudinal sides and being arranged in parallel array with facing longitudinal sides comprising picking up said
- 5 pouches with a gripper mechanism having a comb-like gripper elements with said gripper elements being moved between the sides of adjacent pouches in a longitudinal direction past the bottom sides of the pouches between adjacent longitudinal sides of the pouches.
2. The method according to claim 1 wherein a row of 5 to 100
- 10 pouches is simultaneously gripped.
3. The method according to claim 1 wherein the distance between adjacent pouches in a row is smaller than the thickness of a single pouch.
4. The method according to claim 1 wherein the pouches are gripped in clamping manner.
5. The method according to claim 1 wherein the pouches are gripped by vacuum.
6. The method according to claim 1 wherein the pouches are gripped in an orientation where a main extension plane containing the lateral edges of the pouches is inclined to the vertical by an angle of less than 60°.
7. The method according to claim 6 wherein the main extension plane is substantially vertical.
8. The method according to claim 1 wherein the longitudinal side on which each pouch stands has a horizontal orientation.

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